

# Town of Hopkinton, NH

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## Recycling Committee Minutes - 08/07/2007

### Hopkinton/Webster Recycling Committee Meeting Minutes August 7, 2007

Present: Debbie Augustine, Sally Embly, David Lancaster, Don Lane, Mary Leadbeater, Katherine Mitchell

The meeting was convened at 6:40.

The **minutes** from the July 10 meeting were reviewed. No changes were made; Don moved acceptance as presented, seconded by David. There was no objection. David will take the minutes in September.

The **Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) presentation for Webster** on August 13<sup>th</sup> was discussed first. Debbie showed changes to the power point presentation that she and Katherine had worked on to tailor it specifically to Webster, and took suggestions for changes of wording to some of the slides. Sally had taken notes at the Hopkinton Board of Selectmen (BOS) presentation on July 16<sup>th</sup> and had suggestions to prepare for questions from Webster based on the Hopkinton meeting:

- Concerns for the elderly and those who don't drive.
- Stress that there would be no change to recycling--still no charge and not mandatory.
- Would there be an option for cash payment for those who show up at the Transfer Station with non-PAYT bags?
- Does Webster have to agree to make PAYT happen? Don will check with Russ Hilliard, town counsel, to see if he has an opinion of how this might be handled. Some discussion followed on the tension between the two towns' Boards of Selectmen regarding the Transfer Station.

It was stressed that we want input from Webster about how to proceed.

Debbie explained that the markets for #5 plastics/yogurt containers are still limited. She'll find out more about NRRA's program at their board meeting in September.

Sally asked about previous discussions about using clear bags which she thought would be more acceptable to Webster. Don asked for explanation about this; the idea is that clear bags would be checked at the Transfer Station for recyclables and then could be discarded at no charge if they contained none. Most of the group felt that this would not be a viable idea.

**The Municipal Curbside PAYT proposals** Steve Clough drafted for the committee were discussed. Don said that the BOS probably wouldn't accept curbside recycling or town administered trash pick up, and that the committee should go back to its original plan. This being the case, it was decided that we'd let Steve know we appreciate the work he did on compiling information on municipal curbside PAYT and that the committee's planning is still on-going.

Regarding savings from PAYT--expenses for the Transfer Station will still be included in the budget for the first year of implementation. Monies generated would be returned to the towns' General Fund, then reflected in the budget in the following years.

An ordinance will be needed if haulers will be charged tipping & hauling fees if they continue to pick up residential trash in non-PAYT bags

**Next PAYT Steps:** Don suggested that the committee come back to the BOS at the end of September to report on how the Webster presentation was received and to address concerns expressed by the Hopkinton BOS at their July 16<sup>th</sup> presentation.

The group discussed educational forums and thought we should go before smaller civic groups--Lions Club, Rotary, etc.--before the big town-wide forums; we plan to have the first presentations in October and then again just before Town Meetings. The committee will generate a sample Warrant article for these forums.

A question was raised as to why Sally's Kinko's expenses for the Webster survey came out of the Public Works Department rather than the Recycling Revolving Fund. Don will find out.

**Other Business:** Sally had suggestions from her survey for improvements at the Recycling Center/Transfer Station--more/better signs, a better swap set-up than the little table in front of the hopper.

The Greener Hopkinton event on Sept 16<sup>th</sup> was discussed. It was suggested our group coordinate with Janet Ward if we want to present anything about PAYT. We decided to have posters made from the PAYT power point slides that show our environmental achievements from recycling and our recycling records, along with general recycling information (brochures).

As many members as possible were encouraged to come to the Webster presentation on Monday, the 13th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Leadbeater